

**Within Our Reach:
A Community Partnership to End Homelessness**

**Working Group Notes
December 14, 2005 Meeting**

Kevin Cwayna, Co-Chair of the working group, made opening remarks.

Corinne Schneider introduced Joe Colletti.

Joe Colletti had attendees introduce themselves. Joe presented the final review of 10-year plan focus group meetings. He spoke of:

- The primary purpose of the focus groups
- That nine focus groups were scheduled-one per city council district
- Each focus group lasted approximately two hours
- 20-30 community representatives were present at each meeting.

The recommendations from the focus groups to the Working Group have been grouped under the following needs:

- Homeless Prevention
- Permanent Affordable Housing
- Transitional Housing
- Supportive Social Services (emergency needs, service needs, income needs)
- Street Outreach
- Additional Funding
- Community Outreach and Education

Joe stated that the next step would be to turn this information over to Corinne Schneider.

Questions and Comments led by Joe Colletti followed this presentation.

Jack Smith - The hottest button to press with the community is about rent control and that is the first recommendation on the sheet.

Rick Linder - Landlords rent places to make a profit. People can't afford housing but have a car to sleep in. Need to have a place for people to live in their cars.

Kevin Cwayna - We are interested in any inexpensive solution. A list can be made to add to the review from community input. Right now we will stick with the agenda and go through the plan.

Dave Neary - That type of thinking is important. Thanks for sharing.

Rick Linder - It already exists.

Kevin Cwayna - Continue with agenda.

Corinne Schneider - Add it to next agenda.

Bob Hildebrand - Will the information be summarized?

Corinne Schneider - Subcommittee gets the information from focus group meetings.

Joe Colletti - Housing is being created. More affordable housing. This came up more than once at focus group meetings.

Kevin Cwayna - This is likely to be broken down by subcommittees.

Maria Giesey - There is no reference to the political realities that need to be faced.

Joe Colletti-Refer to page six of the Focus Groups: Final Recommendations.

Dave Neary - The focus groups job was to brainstorm. The community's job is to look at the obstacles ahead.

Christy Jocoy - 20-30 people were in attendance at the focus group meetings, but it was many of the same people. It doesn't invalidate brainstorming.

Corinne introduced Joel John Roberts.

Joel John Roberts presented Power Point presentation entitled "Other Citys' Ten-Year Plan Subcommittee". Power Point is available online at

http://www.longbeach.gov/health/hss/homeless_services/10_year_plan_homeless.asp

Joel John Roberts reviewed

- Common Themes
- Continuum of Care
- Community Education
- Data Analysis
- Funding
- Housing-Part One
- Housing-Part Two
- Outreach
- Planning and Building
- Prevention Strategies

Jack Smith presented a Homeless Awareness Video.

Update from subcommittees that have already met.

C of C and Implementation of Plan-Anita Gibbons, Co-chair

Housing-Jack Smith-Co-chair discussed with committee

- Purpose of subcommittees is to educate the community to ensure buy in
- Discussion of the barriers to housing
- Identify the "hot buttons"
- Provide access to housing not necessarily subsidized housing
- Find data on occupancy rate in motels

Outreach-Annette La Barca, Co-chair discussed with committee

- It takes about 8-10 contacts before a homeless person will come in for services
- Enforce discharge plans
- Redefine what homelessness is
- Someone from Red Cross to be on the committee
- Lockers to keep personal items when they are gone to the multi service center
- More than one multi-service center

Prevention Strategies-Patricia Speelman, Co-chair

- Discussed statistics
- Better tracking
- How to determine if subcommittee is effective

Kevin Cwayna thanked the subcommittees for their work.

Vision and mission Statement presented by Kevin Cwayna

- Work in progress
- Have taken ideas from last working group meeting and have worked on edits

Review of 10-year plan website was presented by Ginger McKay

Announcements

Corinne Schneider-The 59 bed shelter opened on Thanksgiving.

The winter shelter opened on December 2, 2005. It has 180 beds and it is open to men and women.

Maria Giesey-Rainy day shelter at First Congressional Church is ready.

Kevin Cwayna thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting Adjourned